

## PA TRANSITION TO COMMON CORE

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With the release of the Common Core Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics, the State Board adopted the Common Core in July 2011. Further consideration of the current PA Academic Standards and the Common Core has now redefined direction: revising PA Standards to embrace the content and rigor of Common Core. This direction offers many benefits. Continuing with the existing framework of the PA standards offers the ability to retain the integrity of the PA model. Additionally, revising Assessment Anchors and Eligible Content linked to the PA Common Core Standards will permit a redesign of the PSSA while providing reporting categories that clearly summarize the results.

The Pennsylvania transition to PA Common Core Standards is reflected in the attached timeline. The timeline essentially focuses on four objectives:

- Revise the Assessment Anchors and Eligible Content for English Language Arts and Mathematics to reflect the content and rigor of the Common Core Standards
- Revise the PA Academic Standards in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics to embrace the content and rigor of the Common Core Standards
- Revise the PSSA tests for English Language Arts and Mathematics based upon the revised Assessment Anchor/Eligible Content
- Develop and deliver PA Common Core professional development for educators

With 2014 as the target date for revised PSSA tests in Grades 3 through 8, the pathway to the revised assessments is based upon a process that begins with Eligible Content revisions – Eligible Content essentially defined as the test blueprint. These blueprints will frame out ELA and Mathematics PSSA testing for Grades 3 through 8. With direction to employ the Keystone Exams as replacements for the Grade 11 PSSA tests in English Language Arts and Mathematics, the Keystone Exams will be carefully examined to ensure their alignment to Common Core is precise.

PA Common Core is the same as Common Core...the documents are one in the same.

## Common Core Transition Plan

Date	Activity	Deliverable	Participants	Responsibility
October 2011	Aligning AA/EC to Common Core (CC)	Math and Reading AA/EC aligned to CC in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11	PA Educator Teams	Bureau of Assessment and Accountability (BAA)
November – December 2011	Revising PA Academic Standards to create PA Common Core Standards	K-12 Math and Reading PA Common Core Standards (January 2012)	PA Educator Teams	Bureau of Teaching and Learning (BTL)
December 2011	Introduction of PA Common Core initiative (SAS Institute)	SAS Institute presentation	SAS Institute Attendees	BTL
December 2011	PA Common Core Information Sharing • IU personnel	FAQ 1-pager information sheet Podcast		BTL
January 2012	Communicating status of PA Common Core Standards to State Board	PA Common Core Standards for ELA and Mathematics		Carolyn Dumaesq
February 2012	Introduction of PA Common Core Standards	Posting of standards on SAS	N/A	BTL
February – Ongoing 2012	SAS Alignment to PA Common Core Standards	All SAS resources aligned to revised standards and AA/EC		BTL/PLS
January 2012	Begin CC aligned test development (reading and math)	Test items aligned to CC Standards	DRC BAA PA Educator Teams	BAA
January 2012	Begin development of Grade 8 (Grade 11/Keystone) narrative writing prompts (Writing)  Begin development of Grade 5 & 8 (Grade 11/Keystone) CC aligned multiple choice items in Writing	Grade 8 (Grade 11/Keystone) narrative writing prompts aligned to CC  Grade 5 & 8 (Grade 11/Keystone) multiple choice items aligned to CC	DRC BAA PA Educator Teams	BAA
January 2012	Begin selection/ development of reading	Grades 3 – 8 (Grade 11) reading	BAA	BAA

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Date	Activity	Deliverable	Participants	Responsibility
	passages for Grades 3- 8 (Grade 11) to align with CC	passages aligned to CC	PA Educator Teams	
May 2012	Secure approval of revised Anchor/Eligible Content	Approved Standards		Carolyn Dumaresq
Summer 2012	Work on test item development	Test Items	BAA PA Educator Teams	BAA
Spring 2013	Field test items for 2014 operational test at Grades 3-8 and 11/Keystone (reading, writing, and math)	Completed field test items	N/A	BAA
Spring 2013	Field test Grade 8 (Grade 11/Keystone) narrative writing prompts	Completed field test items	N/A	BAA
Spring 2014	Operational Grade 3- 8 (Grade 11/Keystone PSSA (reading, writing, math)	Revised PSSA tests Grade 3- 8 (Grade 11/Keystone)	N/A	BAA
Spring 2014	Operational Keystone Exam in Composition (addition of narrative writing) to replace Grade 11 PSSA	Revised Keystone Exam	N/A	BAA